STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS
NOVEMBER 6, 2018

ITEM 3

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE TO COMMIT UP TO $2 MILLION TO CONTRACT NO. 16-031-300 (VENTURA RIVER WATERSHED MODELING CONTRACT) BETWEEN THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD AND GEOSYNTEC CONSULTANTS

DISCUSSION

The State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board's) mission is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations. One of the ways the State Water Board is fulfilling its mission is through implementation of directives identified in the California Water Action Plan (WAP). Specifically, Action 4 of the WAP, to "Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems," contains the following:

> "*The State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Fish and Wildlife will implement a suite of individual and coordinated administrative efforts to enhance flows statewide in at least five stream systems*[1] *that support critical habitat for anadromous fish. These actions include developing defensible, cost-effective, and time-sensitive approaches to establish instream flows using sound science and a transparent public process. When developing and implementing this action, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Fish and Wildlife will consider their public trust responsibility and existing statutory authorities such as maintaining fish in good condition."*

To support this effort, the State Water Board executed a contract (Contract No. 16-031-300, referred to as the Ventura River Watershed Modeling Contract) with Geosyntec Consultants in June 2017, for $750,000 and a term of three years, to provide technical assistance in the development and application of hydrology and water quality models. The amendment will add funding to the Ventura River Watershed Modeling Contract with Geosyntec Consultants for additional research necessary for comprehensive bedrock aquifer modeling, research and modeling of the hydrologic effects of the Thomas Fire, increased stakeholder outreach, and model software training for Water Boards' staff.

Per Resolution No. 2015-0022, the Executive Director is authorized to execute contracts and amendments with public and private entities that individually involve no more than $750,000 or three years duration. Additional State Water Board authorization is required for the Executive Director or designee to amend the Ventura River Watershed Modeling Contract to: (1) provide

---

[1] The five stream systems jointly identified by the State Water Board and California Department of Fish and Wildlife for this effort include: Mark West Creek (tributary to Russian River); Mill Creek (tributary to Sacramento River); Shasta River; South Fork Eel River; and Ventura River.

an additional $1.25 million, for a total contract amount of up to $2 million; and (2) extend the contract term from three to six years.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board authorize the Executive Director or designee to commit up to $2 million and extend the contract term from three to six years for Contract No. 16-031-300 (Ventura River Watershed Modeling Contract) between the State Water Board and Geosyntec Consultants?

FISCAL IMPACT

Sufficient funds are available and have been identified for this item.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The State Water Board should adopt the proposed resolution.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the State Water Board in reaching Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012, which is to increase sustainable local water supplies for meeting existing and future beneficial uses, and ensure adequate flows for fish and wildlife habitat. In particular, approval of this item will assist in fulfilling Objective 3.3: to ensure that adequate stream flows are available for the protection of fish and wildlife habitat while maintaining the need for diversions of water for other uses.